

# U.S. Pacific Command

*Presence with a Purpose*

January 2012

[www.pacom.mil](http://www.pacom.mil)



*"As I made clear in Australia, we will be strengthening our presence in the Asia-Pacific, and budget reductions will not come at the expense of that critical region" -- US President Barack Obama outlines Defence budget priorities and cuts, during a press briefing at the Pentagon, Jan. 5, 2012.*

This UNCLASSIFIED product is designed to inform our audiences about U.S. military activities that support U.S. Pacific Command's mission of protecting and defending, in concert with other U.S. Government agencies, the territory of the United States, its people, and its interests. With allies and partners, U.S. Pacific Command is committed to enhancing stability in the Asia-Pacific region by promoting security cooperation, encouraging peaceful development, responding to contingencies, deterring aggression, and, when necessary, fighting to win. Items below provide key examples of the ongoing engagement and military presence the United States has in the Asia-Pacific region.

## **STRENGTHEN ALLIANCES AND PARTNERSHIPS**

- The aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72), accompanied by the guided-missile cruiser USS Cape St. George (CG 71), arrived in Laem Chabang, Thailand, for a port visit, Jan. 6. While in Thailand, strike group Sailors visited with the people of Thailand, experienced the local culture and conducted a series of community service projects to further strengthen the relationship between the two countries.

<http://www.c7f.navy.mil/news/2012/01-January/004.htm>

- The Royal Malaysian Navy provided a tour of the Malaysian National Hydrographic Centre for 11 U.S. Navy officers followed by a USS Sterett (DDG 104) ship tour for 22 Malaysian sailors during a port visit to Port Klang, Malaysia, Jan. 10. On the day prior, 14 Sailors from guided-missile destroyers USS Sterett (DDG 104) and USS Momsen (DDG 92), ships assigned to Destroyer Squadron 9, participated in a soccer game against members of the Royal Malaysian Navy (RMN) during the port visit. The tours coupled with the soccer game was one of many events during the visit geared toward fostering a strong military partnership between Malaysia and the U.S.

<http://www.public.navy.mil/surfor/cds9/Pages/DESRON9SailorsFosterRelationshipwithRoyalMalaysianNavy.aspx>

Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. Raymond T. Odierno visited Asia and the Pacific region Jan. 15-20, making stops in Japan and South Korea, as well as other parts of Pacific Command to include Hawaii and Alaska. Gen. Odierno's Asia-Pacific theater tour was his first overseas trip as Army chief of staff. In Japan, the general met with the Japanese minister of defense and the Japan Ground Self Defense Force commander. While in South Korea, he met with the country's minister of defense and army chief of staff. Gen. Odierno expects development of a trilateral relationship between South Korea, Japan and the United States for security cooperation, something he said "is an important step as we continue to expand our relationships in Northeast Asia." The purpose of the trip was to focus getting the message out about the future role of the Army in the Pacific, force structure, stationing and shaping the force of the future based on the roll out of the President's strategy.

- 1,300 Japanese Self Defense Force representatives and approximately 600 13th Air Force Airmen participated in the joint and bilateral exercise Keen Edge 12, Jan. 22-26. The command post exercise featured participation by U.S. and Japanese forces practicing their ability to work and communicate together during simulated scenarios – building upon the successful and massive partnership effort less than a year ago during Operation Tomodachi.

<http://www.defense.gov/news/newsarticle.aspx?id=66909>

- Exercise Yama Sakura 61 started Jan. 23 at Camp Itami, Japan. The annual command post exercise is co-hosted by the Japan Ground Self Defense Force and U.S. Army Japan, and is U.S. Army Pacific's premier joint bilateral command post exercise with the Japan Self Defense Force. More than 3,500 Japanese military personnel and approximately 800 U.S. military personnel are participating in the 30th iteration of the Japan-based exercise series. The exercise is designed to enhance U.S. and Japan combat readiness and interoperability while strengthening bilateral relationships. Yama Sakura demonstrates U.S. resolve to support the security interests of friends and allies in the region. Yama Sakura ends Feb. 5.

[http://www.army.mil/article/72758/Yama\\_Sakura\\_61\\_begins\\_with\\_opening\\_ceremony/](http://www.army.mil/article/72758/Yama_Sakura_61_begins_with_opening_ceremony/)

- The U.S. Embassy, U.S. Pacific Command and the Center for Excellence in Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance (COE-DMHA) with the National Emerging Infectious Disease Coordinating Office (NEIDCO), the Ministry of Health, and Luang Prabang Province, sponsored a Pandemic Influenza Civil-Military Preparedness Workshop in Luang Prabang, Laos, from January 23-26, 2012. More than 70 military and civilian planners and decision-

makers at the national, provincial and district levels attended. The workshop is a direct follow on from similarly sponsored Pandemic Influenza workshops held in Laos on April 2011 and April 2010.

- The USS John C. Stennis Carrier Strike Group conducted a port visit to Singapore Jan. 25 – 29. Sailors conducted military exchanges with the Singapore military, provided tours of the ships and took part in numerous community relation activities. Prior to the port visit, distinguished visitors from Singapore and members of the Singaporean media flew out to the carrier on Jan. 31. for an orientation about carrier operations, which allows the visitors to see how Sailors work and live at sea. The Stennis Strike Group consists of the aircraft carrier USS John C. Stennis (CVN 74), the guided-missile cruiser USS Mobile Bay (CG 53), aircraft from Carrier Air Wing 9, and guided missile destroyers USS Pinckney (DDG 91), USS Kidd (DDG 100), USS Dewey (DDG 105), and USS Wayne E. Meyer (DDG 108) from Destroyer Squadron 21.
- Royal Singapore Navy and divers from the U.S. Navy Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technicians participated in an information exchange in Sembawang on Jan. 27. The exchanges helped interoperability and mutual trust by familiarizing divers and technicians with precautions, procedures and emergency actions during dive operations.
- The mine countermeasures ship USS Patriot (MCM 7) arrived in Takamatsu, Japan for a port visit Jan. 27. While in Takamatsu, Sailors conducted a series of community events and got to experience the people and culture. Commanding Officer Lt. Cmdr. Suzanne Schang also addressed both the Chamber of Commerce and a group of students at Kagawa University on the topic of Women in Leadership.
- Commander, U.S. 7th Fleet, Vice Adm. Scott H. Swift, travelled throughout the 7th Fleet's area of operations in the month of January and met with his counterparts in Australia, India, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, Thailand, and Vietnam. The meetings offered an opportunity to discuss additional partnering and ways in which relationships can be strengthened.

### **PROTECT ACCESS TO THE COMMONS**

- The guided-missile cruiser USS Cape St. George (CG 71) enhanced maritime interoperability and improved military relationships with the Royal Thai Navy during a passing exercise (PASSEX) in the Gulf of Thailand on January 9. During the PASSEX, the navies practiced communication, navigation and tactical maneuvering.  
<http://www.c7f.navy.mil/news/2012/01-January/004.htm>
- The guided-missile destroyers USS Sterett (DDG 104) and USS Momsen (DDG 92) conducted a passing exercise (PASSEX) with ships and aircraft from the Royal Malaysian Navy (RMN) in the Malacca Strait on Jan. 11. During the PASSEX, the navies practiced communication, navigation and tactical maneuvering. The PASSEX fosters military-to-military relations and strengthens U.S. Navy's interoperability with the RMN.
- The John C. Stennis Strike Group (JCSSG) entered the U.S. 7th Fleet area of responsibility Jan. 19 after nearly three months in the U.S. 5th Fleet AOR. The Strike Group will conduct maritime security operations in the Pacific and host military exchanges, as well as conduct port visits to various countries in the AOR. The Strike Group consists of the aircraft carrier USS John C. Stennis (CVN 74), the guided-missile cruiser USS Mobile Bay (CG 53), aircraft from Carrier Air Wing 9, and guided missile destroyers USS Pinckney (DDG 91), USS Kidd (DDG 100), USS Dewey (DDG 105), and USS Wayne E. Meyer (DDG 108) from Destroyer Squadron 21.  
<http://www.c7f.navy.mil/news/2012/01-January/019.htm>
- The aircraft carrier USS John C. Stennis (CVN 74) enhanced maritime interoperability and improved military relationships with the Republic of Singapore Navy during a ships passing exercise (PASSEX) in the Straits of Malacca Jan. 30-31. During the PASSEX, the navies practiced communication, navigation and tactical maneuvering.

### **MAINTAIN MILITARY READINESS**

- Sailors from VP-16 Squadron paid a visit to Diosdado Macapagal Airport near Manila, Philippines to participate in an exercise designed to build ties with the Philippine military Dec. 31-Jan. 4. The "War Eagles" aircrew flew several flights in cooperation with the Philippine Navy.  
<http://jacksonville.com/military/jax-air-news/2012-01-11/story/vp-16-war-eagles-train-philippine-military>
- 3rd Radio Battalion, III MEF Headquarters Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force began Winter Exercise (WINTEX) 12 on Jan. 3 in the Republic of Korea. WINTEX 12 is a signals intelligence exercise conducted between the ROK Marine Corps and U.S. Marine Corps and is scheduled through Mar 24.
- Approximately 25 Marines and Sailors from 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion, 3D Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force participated in Exercise Sand Fisher 12 in Singapore Jan 6-22. SF12 was a bilateral amphibious reconnaissance and surveillance training exercise between the Singapore Armed Forces (SAF) and the United States Marine Corps. The purpose of the exercise was to enhance interoperability, improve military-to-military relations and increase collective military readiness. Training consisted of small craft operations, helicopter and dive insertions and

extractions, communications and ground reconnaissance tactics.

<http://www.dvidshub.net/video/135730/sandfisher-patrol-training>

<http://www.dvidshub.net/video/135725/bilateral-radio-training>

<http://www.dvidshub.net/video/135735/sandfisher-helocast-training>

- The Malaysian military, members of U.S. Pacific Command and 15 Marines from 3rd Marine Expeditionary Brigade, III Marine Expeditionary Force participated in Malaysia Staff Exercise 2012 in Kuala Lumpur Jan. 10-17.
- Rear Adm. Gerard P. Hueber, commander, Expeditionary Strike Group 3, visited the forward-deployed amphibious assault ship USS Essex (LHD 2) Jan. 23, to discuss the upcoming hull swap (ships replacing one another) with USS Bonhomme Richard (LHD 6). During Hueber's visit, the commanding officers of Amphibious Force 7th Fleet, Essex Amphibious Squadron Eleven to discuss Essex' plan of action and preparation for the change.

<http://www.c7f.navy.mil/news/2012/01-January/023.htm>

- Six ships from Destroyer Squadron 15, forward deployed to Yokosuka, Japan conducted multi-ship surface, air, and subsurface training to strengthen their combat readiness and warfighting proficiencies Jan. 23 - 24. USS Mustin (DDG 89), USS John S. McCain (DDG 62), USS Fitzgerald, USS Lassen (DDG 82), USS Stethem (DDG 63) and USS Curtis Wilbur (DDG 54) participated in the training.
- Exercise Cobra Gold 2012 (CG 12) is the 31st iteration of the U.S.-Thailand led multilateral exercise conducted in Thailand. Approximately 8,800 U.S. personnel and 4,300 partner nation personnel are scheduled to participate in Cobra Gold. Although the majority of the exercise will be conducted in February, The Humanitarian and Civic Assistance (HCA) efforts have begun in January with some of the engineering and medical HCA programs focused on flood recovery assistance in response to flooding during 2011 caused by excessive monsoon rains.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HMHtBmW9zvY>

- Approximately 600 Marines and Sailors from the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit, I Marine Expeditionary Force along with sailors from the 3rd Fleet, U.S. Navy began exercise Iron Fist, 2012 with 200 soldiers from the Western Infantry Regiment, Japan Ground Self-Defense Force, Jan. 23 at Camp Pendleton, Calif. IF12 is a bi-lateral amphibious training exercise between the American and Japanese forces. This exercise supports USPACOM and Marine Forces Pacific Theater Security Cooperation (TSC) efforts, and will focus on amphibious operations as well as U.S. Marine Corps - Japan Ground Self-Defense Force interoperability. This is the seventh iteration of the exercise in Southern California and is scheduled to conclude Feb. 15.

<http://www.dvidshub.net/news/82736/15th-marine-expeditionary-unit-hosts-opening-ceremony-iron-fist>

## **U.S. LEADERSHIP FOCUS ON THE ASIA-PACIFIC**

*"All trends are shifting to the Pacific...Our strategic challenges will largely emanate out of the Pacific region."*

--Chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff General Martin Dempsey said after President Barack Obama presented the US' new defense strategy on 5 January at the Pentagon.

*"U.S. relationships with Asian allies and key partners will remain critical to the region's future stability and growth"*

--Navy Adm. Robert F. Willard, U.S. Pacific Command's commander, told the Annual Hawaii Military Partnership Conference on Jan. 6, the day after the guidance was announced.

*"We will strengthen our presence in the region. We have five of our seven mutual defense treaties in this region and we continue to conduct longstanding exercises with Korea, Japan, Thailand and the Philippines. The Army will actively seek new opportunities for expanding and existing training and engaging with new partners."* -- Gen. Raymond T. Odierno, Chief of Staff of the Army, remarks to the Association of the United States Army's Institute of Land Warfare in Arlington, Va., Jan. 25, 2012.

*Presence with Purpose Video Link: <http://www.youtube.com/user/USPacificCommand>*